

Ike Cleaver Muskrat Shed
Thomas Corner Road Near Appoquinimink Creek
Odessa vicinity
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-247

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE DELAWARE	COUNTY NEW CASTLE COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY VICINITY OF ODESSA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) CLEAVER, IKE, MUSKRAT SHED (Mrs. Nora Cleaver, widow of Ike, is owner now.)		HABS NO. DE-247
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Thomas Corner Road (near Appoquinimink Creek), Vicinity of Odessa, Delaware		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Originally a smokehouse, the building was later converted to a shed used for killing muskrats and processing the skins.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Stone pilings support 3-bent, 2-bay post and beam frame of mixed sawn and hewn timbers; some pine log joists; pine floor; roof constructed of cedar shakes and corrugated metal; siding constructed of lapped pine boards and corrugated metal		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) and / or fiberglass 16'6" x 16'3" x 16'4" x 16'3 1/4" (see plan)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Outriggers supporting false plate system protrude through siding to exterior; one piling formed of concrete which was cast using a bucket as a mold; floor joists are a mixture of pine and oak logs and reused hewn oak beams		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) False plate system is supported by outriggers; no ridgepole; common rafter roof covered with shingle lath, shakes and corrugated metal; tie beams and collar ties covered with nails used to hang curing muskrat pelts; posts are sawn; some joists, sills, tie beams and parts of false plate assembly are hewn		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Currently used as a storage shed for yard and garden equipment; many muskrat-related tools are still present; structure is in generally sound condition except for rotting siding and sills in some places		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Most structures on the property, including original dwelling, burned to the ground at an earlier date; muskrat shed was one of the few structures left standing		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Mrs. Nora Cleaver, present occupant and property owner		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Gabrielle Lanier, CHAE - University of Delaware		DATE 6/4/87